A Story of Thrilling Adventure on the Amazon.

[Boston Commercial Bulletin.]

Locating our camp on a suitable spot on the south shore of the Amazon, as nearly as that river can be said to have any shore, Murilla and I proceeded to make daily excursions into the forest in all directions, usually leaving two of the boatmen in charge of the camp, and taking the other two along to carry supplies. The concession proved to be a most magnificent forest. Mahogany trees were there by the thousand, needing but the woodman's axe and transportation down the river to fetch 250 pounds apiece. The tract was intersected by creeks in all directions, along which timber

might readily be floated to the river. It was some ten days after our arrival at the concession when I took Murilla with me for a short expedition into the forest. It was a feastday with the Indians, and as we intended to return before evening, we left them all four in camp, merely providing ourselves with a round of hardtack apiece and some cold venison for lunch. At noon, where we sat down to eat our lunch, Murilla discovered near by a clump of low tushes bearing a yellowish berry. This fruit he professed to recognize as a familiar variety which he had often eaten down toward the coast, though he had never seen any before so far in the interior. After testing them he prenounced them delicious, but of somewhat different flavor to those on the east coast.

We both ate of the berries liberally without the least suspicion of injurious effects, I finding them, as Murilla declared, delicious. Ten minutes after eating the first berry, however, both of us became thrilled with a strange exhibaration. We became almost deliriously happy, Murilla bursting out in the Portuguese doggerel with boisterous hilarity, as though intoxfeated with absinthe. As for myself, my whole nervous system tingled with pleasing excitement to the very finger-tips. I was fairly in-texicated. I have a vague recollection of making a ludicrous resolve to check my own wild impulse to sing, by nodding my head in rythmic approval of Murilla's vecal outburst; of seeing Murills roll over on the ground, and immediciely following his example. Then all became a blank.

This happened aboud midday. Not until pearly sunset on the following day did consciousness again slowly commence to assert itself. I then awoke-if a foggy idea of trying to extricate one's self from a hideous nightmare can be called an awakening-with a horrible sensation of helpiessness. It seemed as though the lower half of my body was numbed and paralyzed by heavy pressure from all directions. A vague impression that my lower limbs were dead and all the blood forced out of them into the upper part of my body, crept over me. My eyes seemed starting from their sockets almost, a singing was in my ears, and my breath came in labored pants. My throat was hot and dry with a raging thirst. I was not yet fully returned to my senses. Like one drugged with chloroform, or a person freezing to death, my patural inclination was to let things take their course. It seemed useless to think of trying to ertricate myself from the vise-like embrace that appeared to clutch me as in a rubber It was only a nightmare, which would pass away in a little while, And yet it couldn't be a nightmare, for I was dimly conscious of being awake after all, and not asleep and dreaming.

Realizing this, by a supreme effort of the will I aroused my well-nigh dormant faculties to a sense that something terrible was the matter. The numbness had not reached my arms, and I tried to raise myself up-I was lying face downward. As I strove to rise I was dragged backward several feet along the ground. Horrified and bewildered, I raised myself up with a franless extremity. My God! I was half engulfed in the throat of a monster box. This hideous Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. Price \$1. tic effort, sufficient to look toward my helpreptile, finding molying at length on the ground, stupefied, had deliberately set about swallow-

Now I was thoroughly aroused, the sensation was as though some powerful suction-pump were employed in dragging me remorselessly suffering no physical pain to speak of; the | nal. The illustrations are extremely fine. dreadial pressure on the lower half of the body | READINGS FROM THE WAVERLEY NOVcreated only numbuess there; above was a sense of oppressiveness, but there was an utter ab-

sence of acute pain. An indescribably-sickening odor also emanated from the monstrous reptile that was leismeely working me down his throat. It was the breath from the foul and slimy stomach that already entombed my feet and legs, and would ere long close over my head. Maddened at the recognizes their merit. loathsome prospect, I gave a horrified scream | THE STORIES MOTHER NATURE TOLD HER of agony, and clutching frantically at the ground I struggled frantically to release myself from the deadly embrace of the serpent's

stay the tidal wave's resistless course, as I to struggle for freedom from that living vise stretched like rulder about every hair, breadth Higginson. Published by Lee & Shepard, Bosstretched like rubber about every hair-breadth of what it engulfed. As I struggled I could feel the booked fangs of my devourer clutch worked with auxious energy.

As soon as I realized the utter hopelessness of accomplishing anything by struggling, a com- | BOB BURTON: OR, THE YOUNG RANCHMAN plete change came over me. I became as calm and collected as if there was nothing to be alarmed at in my position. So cool and philosophical did I begin to review the situation that I concluded I must have suddenly gone

If there was the slightest hope of escape, I argued with myself, it would be in keeping my presence of mind and remaining perfectly quiet. Every struggle I might make to get loose, would land me an inch further down in the activity of that horrible section force within. From my school-boy recollections of natural history came the conclusion that my devourer

must have been a good 24 hours engulfing me up to the waist, and that by offering a merely passive resistance I might keep my head and shoulders outside as long as life remained W. Bryan & Co., Springfield, Mass. Price 50 shoulders outside as long as life remained. From the time I discovered myself to be in the boa's lethiferous grip until the above sensible resolve was arrived at could hardly have been three minutes.

For the first time since recovering consciousness my thoughts now found opportunity to wander from my own sensations, and my first thought was of Murilla. What had become of him? Was he, too, being devoured, or was he already destroyed? A gleam of hope shot through my brain at the query. Perhaps he is unharmed, and when he recovers from the stuperying effects of the berries will be able to render me assistance.

job, and one that required a great deal of pa- Paris Illustre.-The American edition of this

Hours, that the horror of my position seemed | cents a number. to lengthen into days, passed by. I thought I with the closing of the year Godey's Lady's should go stark, raving mad, as I felt the fangs Book issues a superb number, running over Tional Tribune, or any one who may hereafter The Old Testament was Originally written in Hebrew and Chaling page 95.

The Old Testament was Originally written in Hebrew and Chaling page 95.

The Great Wall of China was 1,250 Miles Long.—See page 302. of my hideous devourer scraping against my | with seasonable attractions of the most brilbuckskin jacket to try and inch me further | liant kind. The exquisite steel-plate frontis-

like some overpowering drug, which if distilled | Lennox's illustrated story, "Reggy Did It," is and applied in moderation might even be a gem in its way. So is Emily Read's "Stratolerable to the nostrils. Darkness came, and tagem." "Inasmuch" is very touching. "A added to the terror of my situation. My nerves | Woman's Way" will be greatly enjoyed. were new badly shattered, and in the darkness | Lippincott's Magazine for December contains my plight was pitiable in the extreme. How a complete novel by Capt. Chas. A. King, the shall I describe the weird horrors of that dread-ful night? It seemed an eternity spent amid Ranch. The magazine has also a very read-

thought it would come and find me in possession of my senses. Why it didn't find me a equal to the preceding numbers of the volume.

hell itself.

My first thought was to ascertain whether the guttapercha-like opening in my living tomb bad gained on me during those awful hours of is the adventure of a Southern belle, shut up

The samy poems, especially, will be prized by recitationists. They are full of contrasts, pictorial effects and scribers at \$1.00 each, or strong sentences. They have withal the genuine feeling of the soldier's life, and his method of thought.—Cincindarkness or not. I was lying all this while face | in Richmond, who managed, by the aid of this | downward, and although by this time weak-ened almost to a state of helplessness, I used | back, bearing fresh supplies for her wardrobe.

IN A SNAKE'S THROAT. my left hand to feel the taut rim of the boar constrictor's jaws. They were three full inches higher up my body than yester eve. The excitement of the night I had just passed through had exhausted my emotions, and I remember that the sinister discovery awakened in me no

sense of uneasiness. I tried to form some plan of putting an end to my existance; but my brain refused to make connection between my dim, disjointed flights of thought. It was no longer equal to the con-centration of a definite idea. I was now beyoud all astive emotions. Once I fancied I ard the cry of some animal or human being near by; but I was too far gone to pay any at-

At last all seemed to be over with me. It was as though the darkness of night had gradually closed over me again; a roaring noise in my ears continued for awhile in the darkness, and then all was silent. I had sank into the onsciousness of complete exhaustion.

I remember nothing more until I came to my senses again in our camp on the river bank. A couple of days' nursing by Murilla brought me round so that I could sit up and listen to his account of my rescue. The cry I fancied I heard just before sinking into unconsciousness was from Murilla. The effects of the berries had kept him stupified until the dawn of the second day, the close of the night so full of horrible experiences to me. He had awakened, weak and burning with thirst. Rising up, he beheld not a dozen yards away my head and shoulders protruding from the mouth of a mouster boa, whose scaly body lay in serpentine lengths among the debris of decaying forest

Taking it for granted that I was dead, and chilled with terror, he uttered the horrified cry which I had dimly heard, and rushed away to camp. Being an expert woodman, he had no difficulty in finding his way. The Indians had about given us up for lost. They had searched for us, but had never happened to visit the right place. Two were out searching when he reached the camp. Trembling with weak-ness and terror, he told the Indians the fate that had befallen us.

Returning with axes and crocodile-spears the party attacked the boa, chopping him comtely in two just below the bulge in his body caused by my feet and legs, before he could escape. At the first blow of the ax the monster made spasmodic efforts to disgorge in order to attack his assailants. He tried hard to escape, but the axes were skillfully applied, and he

was rendered powerless. The severed head and neck had to be slit open perore I could be released. At first they thought I was dead, but were soon rejoiced at discovering a lingering spark of life. Carrying me to the camp, resuscitative remedies were applied, and I was, as you have seen, finally brought

In a few days my health was restored sufficiently to start on our return journey down the river; but my own mother would have failed to recognize me. My hair, which was dark brown when Murilla and I sat down to eat our lunch of hardtack and venison, was now as white as the scant locks of an old man of 90-as white as you see it now. My nervous system had received a shock that left me a victim of nightmares and nervous fears and tremors for years afterward. But a naturally iron constitution finally overrode the effects of my terrible experience, and left me in possession of my usual excellent

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These stories are most of them of the olden the buckskin jacket I was wearing, and hold | time, when Congressmen and Senators rode on me like a pair of hungry nippers, while the horseback and in carriages from their far-away herrible suction pump below seemed to be homes to the National Capital. The book teems with interesting scenes and adventures.

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The Christmas number of the Magazine of In my anxiety to see if Murilla were any- American History will contain Mrs. Lamb's exwhere around, I tried to look about me. The | haustive paper on "The Inauguration of Washmovement disturbed the boa, and again he ington in 1789," which was written by special dragged me backward two or three feet, and request for the October meeting of the New again the pressure from below exerted itself | York Historical Society. The same issue of anew to try and drag me in. So long as I remained perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto, unpublished perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto perfectly and hither mained perfectly quiet the boa seemed content of hitherto unpublished portraits of the first and makes a beautiful ornament for the walls of a to let pature take its course, and to remain | President and Mrs. Washington, by Rembrandt | dwelling. It has the certificate, in script, in the cen-

tience. The least movement on my part, how- queen of illustrated weeklies has been a mag- in the National colors. Below is a full-sized G.A.R. ever, he would interpret at once into an effort | nificent success. Everybody is delighted with of his prey to escape, and would reciprocate by trying to swallow me. York, are the publishers, and furnish it at 25

piece, "The Parting Promise," illustrates a The heavy odor of the reptile's breath was capital story by Max Vander Weyde. Emily

all the blackness and the mental tortures of able sketch of Capt. King by Lient, Philip Reed, a brother officer. There is also an un-Morning dawned at last, although I never usual array of interesting literary matter, Peterson's Magazine for December is fully raving maniac or a blubbering idot seemed the strangest thing that had yet happened. This excellent periodical has excelled itself during the present year. "Out With Mosby's

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Aurora Borealis Consists of Light Streaks of Electricity.—See page 54.

The "Gordian Knot" was a Knot Tied by King Gordius of Phrygia in the Harness of His Oxen.—See

> The Earth's Distance from the Sun is 92,000,000 Miles.—See page 15.
>
> Alexander the Great, Born in Macedon, Conqueror of Greece, Asia and Africa; Buried in Alexandria, 323 B. C.—See page 239.
>
> Cleopatra was an Egyptian Princess, who Died 30 B. C.—See page 273. Mount Everest, a Peak of the Himalaya Mountains in Asia, is the Highest in the World: 29,062 Feet.-

> The Fates were Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos, Three Daughters of Night, who determined Human Destiny .- See page 250. Upwards of 120,000 Different Plants are Known to Exist.—See page 65. London, in Great Britain, Contains the Largest Population of any City in the World: 3,500,000,-See Julius Cæsar, a Roman Statesman, Died 44 B. C.-See page 111. The Nine Muses were the Goddesses of Music, Poetry, Song and Dancing-Companions of Apollo.

> The Greek Statue, Apollo Belvidere, was discovered 1503.—See page 181. Charlemagne, the most illustrious Monarch of the Middle Ages, Died 814; Entombed at Aix La Chapelle.-See page 293. Initials S. P. Q. R. Signify the Roman Senate and People.—See page 276.
>
> The Old Testament was Originally written in Hebrew and Chaldee; the New Testament in Greek.—See

> Grecian Architecture, Perfected about 550 B. C., is Divided into Three Styles: Dorie, Ionic and Corin-Michael Angelo, great Painter and Sculptor, Died 1563.—See page 172.
>
> Dew is the Condensation of Atmospheric Moisture on Grass or other objects During the Night.—See The First English Newspaper was Printed in 1619.—See page 145.
>
> The Mosque of Omar, in Jerusalem, Built in 637, stands upon the site of Solomon's Temple.—See

> Witchcraft was believed to be the Power of Committing Malignant Acts through Diabolical Assistance The Coliseum at Rome Seated 87,000 Spectators.—See page 278. The Seven Prismatic Colors are Compounded from the Three Primitive Colors, Red Yellow and Blue .-Captain Cook, the Great Navigator, was Killed in 1779.—See page 365.
> "Veni, Vidi, Vici" was a dispatch sent to Rome by Caius Julius Cæsar, after a Victorius Battle.—See

MRS. KATE BROWNLEE SHERWOOD, Humboldt, the Great Naturalist and Geographer, Died 1859.—See page 133.

Flavius Josephus was a Learned Jew of the First Century, whose writings corroborate Biblical History -See page 232. Past National President, Woman's Relief Corps.

Planets Shine with a Steady Lustre, but Stars Twinkle.—See page 13.

Planets Shine with a Steady Lustre, but Stars Twinkle.—See page 13.

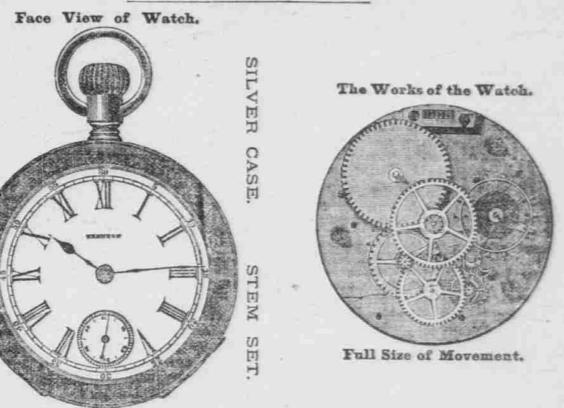
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